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### REMARKS

Entry of this Amendment prior to examination is respectfully requested.

By the present Amendment, further new independent claims 27 and 28 are presented for examination. These claims are particularly directed to a combination of features including a discharge confining means, an electrode cover provided at the bottom surface of the upper electrode, wherein the electrode cover is comprised of silicon and includes holes to pass the processing gas, and a susceptible cover comprised of silicon provided around a sample mounting surface of the lower electrode. In addition to this, claim 27 includes the distinction of means for generating a plasma to etch a fine pattern of 0.2  $\mu\text{m}$  or smaller on the sample which has a diameter of 300 mm or greater, while claim 28 contains these same features together with the further limitation that the means for generating the plasma generates the plasma with a density of  $5 \times 10^{10} \text{ cm}^{-3}$  to  $5 \times 10^{11} \text{ cm}^{-3}$ . As such, it is respectfully submitted that this overall combination of features is neither taught nor suggested by the cited prior art in this application. Accordingly, entry of these newly presented claims 27 and 28, and allowance thereof, is respectfully requested.

In addition, reconsideration and allowance of newly presented dependent claims 29 and 30 is also respectfully requested. These claims, similar to the previously pending claims, include the further feature that the discharge confining means is comprised of silicon. As discussed in the Remarks of previously submitted Preliminary Amendments, it is respectfully submitted that this feature is lacking from the cited prior art, as such, the overall combination set forth by dependent claims 29 and 30 serves to even further define over the cited prior art. Therefore,

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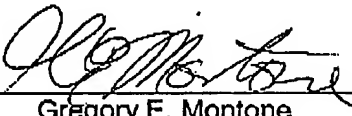
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reconsideration and allowance of these dependent claims 29 and 30 is also respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that there are any other points which may be clarified or otherwise disposed of either by telephone discussion or by personal interview, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Docket No. 520.35237CV4), and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,  
**ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP**

By   
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